

**Small acreages with agriculture  
property classifications**

Karl Christians  
President, Lewis & Clark County Farm Bureau  
Small acreage owner  
East Helena Valley

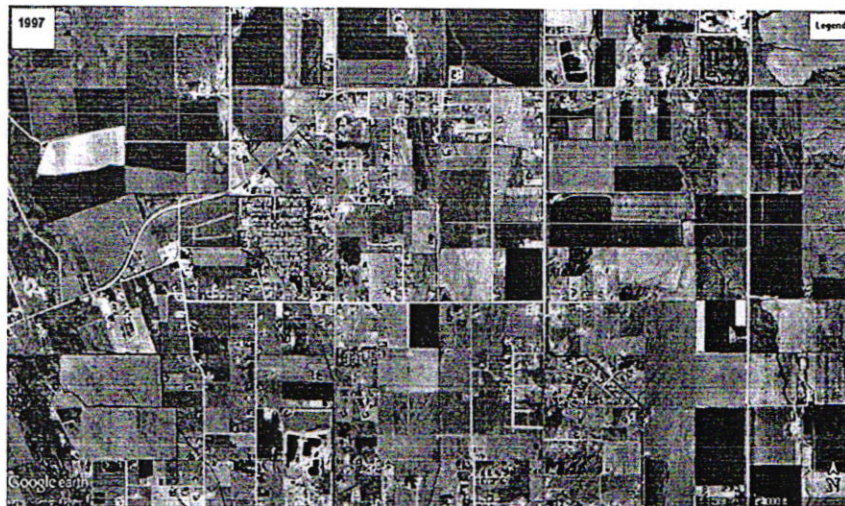
**Small acreage Ag Production in Helena Valley:**

- Beef Cattle
  - Feeder calves
  - Fat cattle
  - Replacement heifers
  - Bred heifers
  - Bred cows
- Hogs
- Sheep
- 4-H beef, lambs, pigs
- Horses
- Small Grains
  - Wheat, barley, oats, malt barley
  - Future pulse crops
- Hay
  - Alfalfa, grass alfalfa
  - Grain hay
  - Cover crop hay
- Cover crop/soil health
- Bees/honey

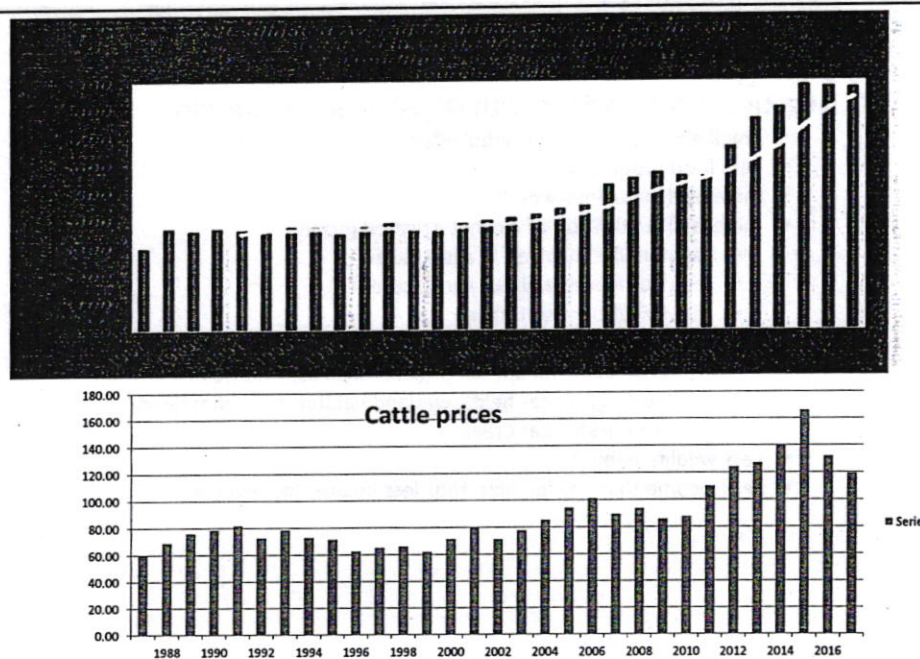
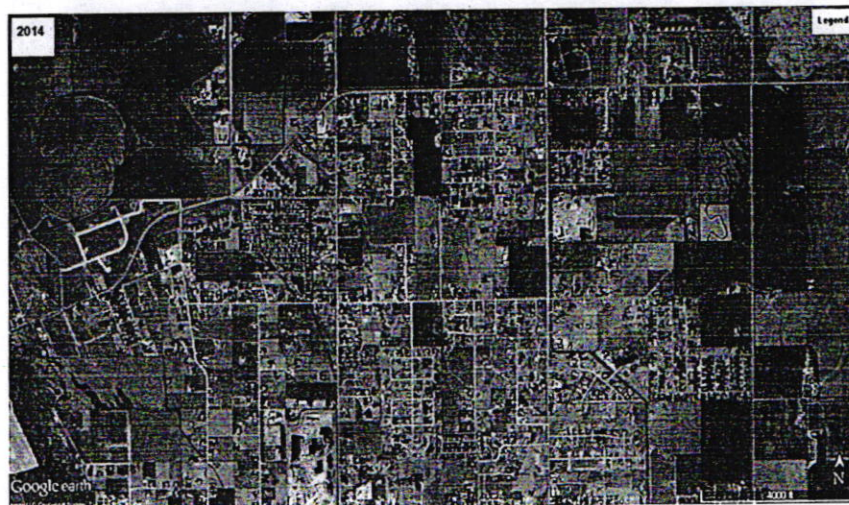
### Benefits of small acreages and the Ag land exemption:

- Added income
- Way of Life
- Kids learn and experience:
  - Agriculture
  - How to produce food
  - Work ethic
  - Responsibility
  - Leadership roles
- Many utilize HVID
  - Many acres are irrigated
  - Keep the irrigation district viable
  - Recharges the ground water for urban use
  - Provide water for special projects such as, waterfowl nesting, soccer fields, wetland habitat, in-stream flows for Prickly Pear Creek
- Natural resource benefits
  - Reduce noxious weeds
  - Soil health
  - Reduced erosion
  - Wildlife
- Many many more benefits

Aerial of a portion of Valley in 1997

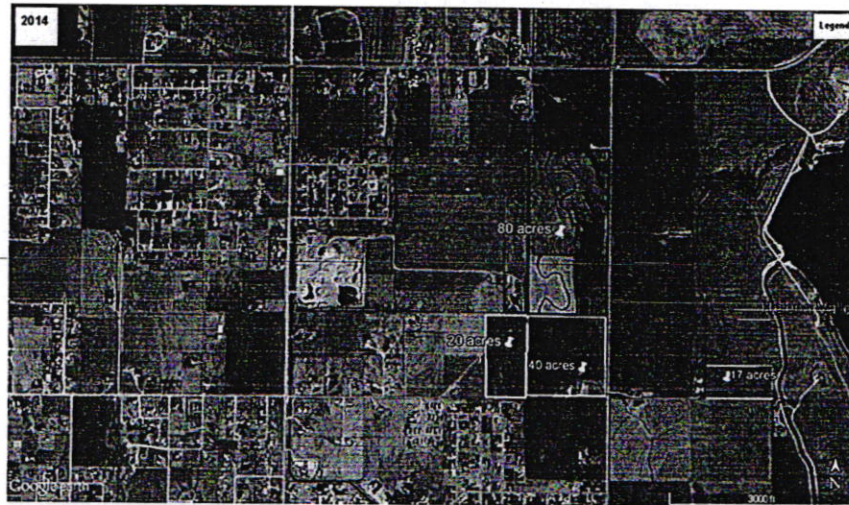


Aerial of a portion of Valley in 2014



Source: Beef Magazine, Mar 2016 &amp; Beef2live, Nov 2017





#### Negative repercussions with NO Ag land exemption:

- Small acreages would be subdivided
- Less food production
- Increased in noxious weeds
- Increased subdivision of current irrigated ground
  - Less families involved in agriculture
  - Less kids learning about agriculture
  - Less irrigation resulting in
    - Less ground water recharge
    - Less water for special projects such as, waterfowl nesting, soccer fields, wetland habitat, in-stream flows for Prickly Pear Creek
- Less wildlife habitat
- Less income to many families, thus less income tax revenue.